

Reporting During the Black Death

Directions: After reading various documents from the period of the Black Death, you now have a grasp of the circumstances from the time period. While reading the documents, you should have analyzed the various sources for their content, author, purpose, impacts on the culture, and tone. In addition, you should have identified the individuals controlling the narrative, those whose voices were lost in the narrative, and also be able to identify the misinformation/rumors that surrounded the spread of the Black Death. Now, it is time for you to be the journalist. Imagine that you are a journalist from the time period. You now have the power to give voice to those who were voiceless during the period. You will do the following:

1. *Identify the demographics of the individual that you are interviewing.*
2. *Identify why they are an under-reported story during the period.*
3. *Discuss how their story is different from the narrative that is told in other sources (be sure to use evidence from the sources provided in the DBQ).*
4. *You will “conduct an interview” by writing your questions and their responses from their point of view. What would they say about this time period? What information would they want us to know? Each response must be elaborate, detailed, and take us to the events from the period. (You will write one to two paragraphs for each question (minimum of six questions)).*

Demographics of Interviewee	
Age	28
Gender	Female
Occupation	Housewife/Stay home with the kids.
Location	Bordeaux
Religion	Judaism
How are they different from the narrative in other sources?	Instead of looking at people who have power/ wealth, I am looking at the poor and Jewish since they were the main victims.
How are they an under-reported story?	It is an under-reported story because only the wealthy or people of power wrote stuff and are well known while the victims or families of the victims were shunned or silenced.

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Interview: Please put in as a question and answer format

“Hello and thank you for joining me today. Can you please tell us what your name is and Occupation?”

“My name is Alya Amar and I am a housewife. When my husband went to work, I would stay home and take care of our three children. My husband, Gabriel Amar, did farm work to both earn money and feed the family.”

“How are you keeping yourself and your family away from the plague?”

“Honestly, it’s kind of hard for us. Our family is poor and it’s hard to keep it away. My parents, Shai and Leah Fells have already fallen ill due to the plague. The plague doctors have tried their best to help, but it seems they are going to pass away soon.”

“How do you feel about your husband being arrested and forced to admit for a crime he didn’t commit?”

“I feel awful about it. My husband was accused of murdering six children. The knights came in and destroyed our house knocking food off the oven, ripping blankets and clothes, then took my husband away only to be tortured and killed. After they killed him, they displayed his body for the whole world to see. I couldn’t even recognize my own husband!”

After she calmed down I continued to ask my questions.

“Are you afraid of being taken away from your children?”

“It is a constant fear of mine. The thought of my children being alone in this world without someone to hold their hand or guide them through life is something that will leave me in tears. My eldest son, Joshua Amar, is only twelve and to be taken away from them and leaving him alone to take care of his younger siblings is a burden I don’t want to put on him.”

“Do you think the government is doing things the right way?”

“I can’t go against the government, but I don’t think it’s right. The way they can kill whoever they want or falsely accuse another of a crime is wrong. The way the priest can kill people or damn others to hell is wrong. Our entire government is wrong, but yet you also can’t escape it.”

“Has any of your children or any other children you know been accused of a crime?”

My neighbor’s child was accused of adultery. Her name was Ami Hirschey and she was 16. I could hear the screams and protest of the mother before they killed the mother. I don’t know what they tortured her with, but it was bad enough to get her to confess. A few days later, she was stoned in public.”

“Thank you for your time. If I need any more informations I will come by again.”

“You’re welcome. Have a nice day and be safe!”

This is only one of the many Jewish families who have suffered the same fates, some being worse than others.

Please complete the reflection on the [Google Form](#).